

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5050

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, EC, EFTA

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION SCHEMES FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 1559

(B) STATE 43400

1. MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED IEC WORLD-WIDE SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENT QUALITY ASSESSMENT WITH AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE GENEVA REP HOHN (PER PARA 1 REFTL (A)). HOHN SAID IEC GOVERNING BODY MEETING IN BUCHAREST IN SEPTEMBER 1974 WOULD DECIDE WHETHER IEC WORLD-WIDE SYSTEM WOULD BE ADOPTED NOW AND THUS WHETHER EUROPEAN CENEL SYSTEM WOULD GO INTO OPERATION FIRST.

2. IF DECISION IS MADE AT BUCHAREST TO ADOPT IEC SYSTEM, ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY WOULD BEGIN TO OPERATE BY JULY 1, 1975 AND ACTUAL OPERATION OF SYSTEM IN TRADE WOULD TAKE PLACE TWO OR THREE  
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YEARS LATER. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPERCEDE CENEL

SYSTEM AND INDEED SHOULD STOP FURTHER WORK ON IT, ACCORDING TO HOHN. HOWEVER, IF DECISION TO ADOPT IEC SYSTEM IS POSTPONED, THEN CENEL SYSTEM, WHICH IS CLOSE TO OPERATION NOW, WOULD GO INTO EFFECT. ONCE OPERATIVE, CENEL SYSTEM WOULD PROBABLY BE UNSTOPPABLE, WITH RESULT THAT EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND STANDARDS CONCEPTS WOULD BEGIN TO DISADVANTAGE US TRADE.

3. HERETOFORE EUROPEANS HAVE COOPERATED IN DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL SYSTEM UNDER IEC AND HAVE STATED WILLINGNESS ADOPT IT TO EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHER SYSTEMS. HOWEVER HOHN IS UNEASY ABOUT TRUE ATTITUDE OF EUROPEANS RE IEC. HE SAYS THERE IS MOVE AFOOT TO ESTABLISH CENEL SYSTEM AND THEN INTERNATIONALIZE IT AS THE WORLD STANDARD. IF THIS APPROACH IS INDEED PURSUED, IT WILL BE SIMPLE MATTER TO RAISE ENOUGH TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS TO IEC SYSTEM AT BUCHAREST IEC MEETING TO ALLOW CENEL SYSTEM TIME TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. HOHN BELIEVES US COMPANIES TOO OPTIMISTIC RE CHANCES OF ADOPTION OF IEC SYSTEM IN BUCHAREST; HIS GUESS IS THAT ODDS NO BETTER THAN 50-50.

4. HOHN ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERNED THAT US-HEADQUARTERED MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN EUROPE ARE AMBIVALENT ABOUT CHOICE BETWEEN IEC AND CENEL SYSTEMS, AS THEY WILL BE ABLE SELL IN EUROPE EITHER WAY.

5. MISSION OFFICER ASKED WHAT US GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO TO HELP. HOHN SIAD HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY ASSOOCIATION WOULD ALREADY HAVE APPROACHED USG FOR HELP IF THERE WERE WAY GOVERNMENT COULD AID. HOHN SUGGESTED IF CENEL SYSTEM IS PLACED INTO EFFECT, US MIGHT THEN OBJECT ON BASIS THIS IS NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIER SINCE NOTHING HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED YET, THERE IS NO GROUND FOR COMPLIANT YET.DALE

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## Message Attributes

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